

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- A collection method and system which restrains an increase in initial cost of energy-saving facilities, ~~and can be applied to small scale facilities.~~ According to the invention, the reduced amount of running cost of energy-saving facilities for a predetermined period is ~~predictively computed~~ based on a prediction of operation of the facilities ~~by a target customer,~~ and an initial cost is determined. Actual operation of the energy-saving facilities is monitored, ~~and monitored information is stored in a history database.~~ Based on the actual operation, the reduced amount of the running cost for the ~~predetermined period~~ is periodically calculated and stored in a database. ~~A customer terminal and a financial institution terminal are periodically notified of the reduced amount via the Internet, and a business enterpriser draws the amount from the customer's account, and periodically collects~~ corresponding to the reduced amount. --